

"A Historic Past"



"A Bright Future"

THE CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
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**MINUTES
CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
MAYOR & COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
MONTHLY MEETING
Monday, May 16, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.
DELAWARE CITY FIRE COMPANY
815 FIFTH STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson opened the floor for the Board of Appeals (Annual FY22 Tax Assessment) at 6:35pm.

No residents were present to appeal their taxes. Mayor Johnson adjourned this meeting at 8:08p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson called the May 16, 2022 Mayor & Council meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

In addition to Mayor Johnson and Vice Mayor Barrett, Council Members Saunders, Price, and Cornish were present. Also, in attendance were City Manager Baylor, City Solicitor Rhodunda, and Police Chief Henderson.

Council Member Price was officially sworn in by Mayor Johnson, after the roll call.

ACTION UPON MINUTES

Vice Mayor Barrett made the motion to accept the April 11, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders. A vote was taken, all members were in favor. *Minutes were accepted as written.*

Council Member Saunders made the motion to accept the April 25, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Barrett. A vote was taken, all members were in favor. *Minutes were accepted as written.*

POLICE REPORT

Chief Henderson gave the following report:

CALLS FOR SERVICE	TOTAL REPORTS
APRIL 2022	YTD 2022
99	288
APRIL 2021	YTD 2021
39	219
% CHANGE	% CHANGE
+153.8%	+31.5%

Significant Events:

- There were 40 traffic arrests and 14 traffic warnings. Also, there were 3 crime prevention checks; 19 crime reports; 51 field service reports; 5 accidents; and 9 criminal arrests.
- Ofc. Gaul conducted an unauthorized use of motor vehicle investigation which resulted in the recovery of the vehicle, as well as an arrest of the alleged suspect.
- Off. Williams investigated a theft from an elderly victim where the suspect was arrested on numerous felony charges.
- The department has received a federal System for Award Management (SAM) grant for the purchase of new Axon tasers and accessories.
- Chief Henderson was awarded a Commendation of Merit from the New Castle County Police for his role in the apprehension of the Townsend homicide suspect on December 3, 2021.
- A subpoena is pending for the "unwanted guest" from the January Mayor and Council Meeting (on Zoom).
- May 26, 2022 there will be a community watch meeting.
- The Department's Facebook account is up and working.

There were no questions or comments from Mayor & Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Baylor gave the following report:

- **Harbor Street Pump Removal Project (Update) - Below** is an update regarding the Harbor Street Pump Removal Project:

- Construction contract has been awarded to Reybold Construction. An Agreement between the city and contractor has been executed. A preconstruction meeting is being scheduled and we should have a projected start date after the preconstruction.
- **Madison and Monroe Street Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study:** Mr. Lewandowski of Verdantas believes they understand the circumstances behind the flooding that occurred on October 29 last year in the area of Madison and Monroe streets. There is a low point in the levee system along Dragon Run. Verdantas is evaluating conceptual measures that might be instituted to mitigate flooding in the future and looking at possible impacts strategically in the area of study.
- **LOCK – Update**
 - There will be a site visit of the Lock with Mr. Dave Athey during the regularly scheduled Historic Preservation Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 6, 2022.
- **Delaware City Projects Update:**
 - Veterans Point – Veterans Point is about halfway complete. A monument and five flag poles have been ordered. The flag poles will represent each branch of the military and will form a semi-circle behind the main flag pole. It was our hope they would be installed prior to Memorial Day, however, due to supply chain issues, they will not be in until the end of June. Once they have arrived, we will be setting up a ceremony to recognize the changes to the point.
 - The Stone Wall – The stone wall located behind the community center is scheduled to be repaired. The repairs should be complete by the end of the month.
 - The Diving Bell – The Diving Bell is scheduled to be repointed. The work should be completed by the end of the month.
 - The Gazebo – A walkway is going to be installed from the sideway to and around the Gazebo. This will make the Gazebo accessible for those with disabilities. That should be completed by mid-June.
- **Delaware City Community Center –**
 - Repairs are currently being done to the ceiling in the library from a leak last summer. The repairs should be completed by the end of the month.
 - Last week repairs were completed to the plumbing systems in the men's and women's bathrooms in the library
- **Fort DuPont Update –**
 - **Sink Hole Update** – I have been in contact with Mrs. Carolann Wicks, the interim Executive Director at Fort DuPont. She has provided me with recent updates regarding the sink hole located on the Emergency Access Road along the Branch Canal. Executive Director Wicks said they are putting together a plan to address the sink hole, as well as, working on addressing drainage concerns of the residents adjacent to the sink hole. As I previously stated, this situation is being closely monitored by Mr. Dave Athey.
 - **Entrance (Roundabout) Improvement Project** – Chief MacKenzie and Chief Henderson met with officials from DELDOT, ADEL Construction and Fort DuPont regarding various options regarding the entrance way improvement project. It is my understanding the next step in the process will be to have a meeting with Senator Poore and Representative Longhurst to discuss all options under consideration. After that meeting, a public meeting will be schedule to share the options and obtain feedback prior to a final decision on which option to select is made.

- **State Funding Projects – Update** – Attached is a spreadsheet with a list of projects and the proposed amounts requested for the Community Reinvestment Funds from the state’s bond bill committee. The city’s funding request was submitted on May 8, 2022.
- **Memorial Day Services** – The members of Robert L. Taylor Post 13 of the American Legion will be holding a Memorial Day service at Veterans Point on Sunday, May 29th. The services will begin at 10:30 a.m.
- **Website and City Code Update** – The city has entered into an agreement with Civic Plus to create a new website that will be more interactive and easier to navigate for everyone. In addition, as part of this project, they will improve access to our charter, ordinances and code to make them be searchable by key words. This project is underway and should take a couple of months to complete.

CITY SOLICITOR’S REPORT

City Solicitor Rhodunda gave the following report:

The 5th Street parking lot is technically divided into three separate parcels, and the city rents only one of them. The city’s lease expires at the end of June.

ACTION UPON FINANCE REPORT

Finance Manager Graham had prepared the financial report as of April 30, 2022. The full report is available. (She was absent from the meeting).

Vice Mayor Barrett made a motion to accept the finance report, subject to audit; the motion was seconded by Council Member Cornish. A vote was taken, and all members were in favor. *The Finance report was accepted.*

APPOINTMENTS: ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

Andrea Nolan was appointed to the Board of Adjustment for a 3-year term.

REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Lynn Dilliplane of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) announced that her commission is looking for two new members.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1) 74 Washington Street: Whittaker Brothers – Final Major Subdivision.

This will be a 4-lot subdivision upon which 4 single-family homes will be built. The homes will be built on pilings, and they will have oversized 2-car garages.

Vice Mayor Barrett made a motion to approve this Final Major Subdivision. It was seconded by Council Member Saunders. A vote was held, and all members were in favor. *The motion passed.*

2) Resolution 22-0516-01 Charter Change on Elections for Vacated Mayor or Council Seats.

Council Member Saunders made a motion to approve this resolution (with two amendments). It was seconded by Vice Mayor Barrett. A vote was held, and all members were in favor. *The motion passed.*

3) Ordinance 22-0516-01 to Correct Special Use Permit in Our Code.

Council Members Saunders made a motion to approve this correction. It was seconded by Vice Mayor Barrett. A vote was held, and all members were in favor. *The motion passed.*

4) Extension of the Emergency Allowance for the Number of Board of Adjustment Members to be reduced to 3 from 5. Previous Extension Expired 04/24/22.

This would allow another 90 days to go back to three members.

Vice Mayor Barrett made a motion to approve this change. It was seconded by Council Member Saunders. A vote was held, and all members were in favor. *The motion passed.*

5) Discussion of Non-Vehicular Traffic

This was pertaining to Cozy Quarters Farm and their horse and pony rides in the city. Pam Collacci (a co-owner of the farm) spoke initially. There is a division between those who support these rides and those who do not want the rides, primarily due to safety concerns. The Farm is a small business, and some are concerned about making a decision that will hurt their business.

Vice Mayor Barrett said she is very worried about safety, and she is also concerned about any liability to Delaware City, if an accident occurred. City Solicitor Rhodunda added that the “rules of the road” must be followed. Mayor Johnson asked if a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) could be drafted to help with this situation? Council Member Saunders said that two issues are involved: 1) permitting the horses to cross Highway 9 and 2) having the horses in town at all.

Tim Dilliplane (118 Clinton Street) asked if the firehouse could stop traffic for the horses?

Unknown Resident asked if installing a flashing LED light would help the situation?

Unknown Resident asked about having crossing guards?

The outcome was to set-up a meeting with: City Manager Baylor, DelDOT, the police department and two Council Members to see if it was possible to draft an MOU concerning this issue. Vice Mayor Barrett made a motion for this to occur. The motion was seconded by Council Member Saunders. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

MAYOR & COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Johnson: The Memorial Day service at Veteran’s Point on May 29th will begin at 10:30a.m.

Vice Mayor Barrett: None.

Council Member Saunders: None.

Council Member Price: None.

Council Member Cornish: None.

CITIZENS QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnson entertained a motion to adjourn. Vice Mayor Barrett made the motion. Council Member Saunders seconded the motion. *Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:22p.m.*

(Note: the digital recorder was not recording for this meeting. These minutes are prepared from written notes).

*Respectfully submitted,
Tina Pincus
City Secretary*